

§ 3509.40 What are fractional interest prospecting permits and leases?

They are prospecting permits and leases for parcels where the United States holds less than 100 per cent of the mineral interest of the parcel. Fractional interest leases allow development of the shared mineral interests.

§ 3509.41 For what lands may BLM issue fractional interest prospecting permits and leases?

We issue them for lands where the United States owns less than 100 per cent of the mineral interest and where we have determined it is in the public interest to grant the permit or lease. We will only grant fractional interest permits or leases with the consent of the surface managing agency. If we believe a mineral deposit exists but do not know, we may issue a noncompetitive fractional interest lease.

§ 3509.45 Who may apply for a fractional interest prospecting permit or lease?

Only persons who have an interest in the non-Federal share of the same minerals may apply for a fractional interest lease of the minerals. Applicants must also meet the qualification standards in subpart 3502 of this part.

§ 3509.46 How do I apply for a fractional interest prospecting permit or lease?

No specific form is required. Submit the application to the BLM office with jurisdiction over the lands. BLM will charge you a processing fee on a case-by-case basis as described in § 3000.11 of this chapter.

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§ 3509.47 What information must I include in my application for a fractional interest prospecting permit or lease?

Your application must include all the same information we require when you apply for a regular competitive Federal lease. See subpart 3508 of this part. In addition, you must include the following:

- (a) A land description;

- (b) Your certification that you meet the qualifications requirements (see subpart 3502 of this part);

- (c) Evidence of your title or the extent of your rights in the mineral deposits. Submit either a certified abstract of title, a title certificate or the instrument establishing your rights; and

- (d) The names of the other owners, if any, of the mineral interests. If you own the operating rights to the mineral by means of a contract with the mineral owner, you also need to submit three copies of the mineral contract or lease.

§ 3509.48 What will BLM do after it receives my application for a fractional interest lease?

- (a) After BLM receives your application for a fractional interest lease, we will notify all other interest owners that they have 90 days to file applications for the same mineral interest.

- (b) If any other interest owners timely apply, we will hold a competitive lease sale among the qualified applicants. BLM will establish standards for the competitive sale similar to those under subpart 3508 of this part, and provide notice to all of the applicants.

- (c) If no other qualified owners timely apply, BLM may issue a fractional interest lease to you. BLM will establish the amount of the bonus bid you must pay through appraisal.

§ 3509.49 What terms and conditions apply to my fractional interest prospecting permit or lease?

BLM will apply the commodity-specific terms and conditions found in this part to fractional interest prospecting permits and leases.

§ 3509.50 Under what conditions would BLM reject my application for a fractional interest prospecting permit or lease?

BLM will reject your fractional interest application if:

- (a) You do not meet the qualifications in § 3509.45 of this part;

- (b) You would have an interest in the total Federal and non-Federal mineral estate of less than 50% once the fractional interest prospecting permit or lease is issued, unless we determine it would be in the best interests of the